



Please add the following new claims:

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11. (New) (Amended) An add/drop node according to claim 2, characterized in that each add/drop module comprises a house enclosing the add device and the drop device of the add/drop module, a first fixed connector attached to the house for connection in the first one of the two optical fiber paths and a first optical fiber extending freely from the house and having a first free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the first path through the considered add/drop module to the neighbouring module, and a second fixed connector attached to the house for connection in the second one of the two optical fiber paths and a second optical fiber extending freely from the house

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cont. and having a second free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed second connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the second path through the considered add/drop module to the neighboring module.

12. (New) (Amended) An add/drop node according to claim 3, characterized in that each add/drop module comprises a house enclosing the add device and the drop device of the add/drop module, a first fixed connector attached to the house for connection in the first one of the two optical fiber paths and a first optical fiber extending freely from the house and having a first free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the first path through the considered add/drop module to the neighbouring module, and a second fixed connector attached to the house for connection in the second one of the two optical fiber paths and a second optical fiber extending freely from the house and having a second free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed second connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the second path through the considered add/drop module to the neighboring module.

13. (New) (Amended) An add/drop node according to claim 4, characterized in that each add/drop module comprises a house enclosing the add device and the drop device of the add/drop module, a first fixed connector attached to the house for

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connection in the first one of the two optical fiber paths and a first optical fiber extending freely from the house and having a first free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the first path through the considered add/drop module to the neighbouring module, and a second fixed connector attached to the house for connection in the second one of the two optical fiber paths and a second optical fiber extending freely from the house and having a second free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed second connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the second path through the considered add/drop module to the neighboring module.

14. (New) (Amended) An add/drop node according to claim 5, characterized in that each add/drop module comprises a house enclosing the add device and the drop device of the add/drop module, a first fixed connector attached to the house for connection in the first one of the two optical fiber paths and a first optical fiber extending freely from the house and having a first free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the first path through the considered add/drop module to the neighbouring module, and a second fixed connector attached to the house for connection in the second one of the two optical fiber paths and a second optical fiber extending freely from the house and having a second free connector at its free end to be attached

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to the fixed second connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the second path through the considered add/drop module to the neighboring module.--